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*Wedding Planning Magazine*

**INSIDE:**

*Our Expos are  
Moving Outdoors!*

*Chambord Cocktail  
Recipes!*

*and...*

*An Interview with  
Cover Photo Contest Winner:  
Lexi Foster Photography!*



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A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a bright pink suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, is shouting with his mouth wide open in a joyful expression. He is surrounded by other guests at what appears to be a wedding reception. In the foreground, a man in a tan suit is seen from the side, and a woman in a black dress is seen from the back. The background is filled with other guests and warm, bokeh-style lighting.

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A special thanks to all of the wedding professionals and advertisers who helped make this wedding planning mini-magazine possible!

## A NOTE FROM HAPPILY EVER EXPO



Thank you for signing up for our virtual expo and getting on our mailing list for this complimentary wedding planning mini-magazine! We hope you enjoy reading through it and hope that you find some wedding professionals to help you in your wedding planning.

Given the circumstances, we hope you appreciate the alternative ways Happily Ever Expo has been there to help you through this once in a life time stage in your life!

On another note, we are offering outdoor expos this year, May 16th in Wrentham, MA at Lake Pearl, June 27th in Topsfield, MA at Connemara House, October 24th in Beverly at Misselwood Events, and more to be announced. We look forward to seeing you in person! All expos will follow state guidelines at the time of the expo and masks will be mandatory.

From,

*Lora Weaver*

Lora Weaver, Owner

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# Chambord Cocktails!

*Chambord is an exclusive sponsor of Happily Ever Expo*

*Serve these at your shower, bachelorette party and wedding reception! Your guests will love them!*

## **Chambord Royale**

**¼ oz Chambord Liqueur**

**Champagne, Prosecco or Sparkling Wine**

**1 Raspberry**

**Pour Chambord into a flute or coupe glass.**

**Top up with whatever your tongue desires.**

**Then plop. Finish with the important raspberry.**





## Chambord Bramble

**1 oz Chambord Liqueur**

**1.5 oz Fords Gin**

**1 oz Fresh Lemon Juice**

**3 Blackberries**

**Fill a rocks glass with  
crushed ice.**

**Pour in gin, lemon juice and  
Chambord. Stir to combine  
and garnish with a lemon  
wedge.**

**Optional: add muddled  
blackberries.**



## Chambord Spritz

**1½ oz Chambord Liqueur**

**4 oz dry white wine**

**Soda water**

**Take a large wine glass and fill  
it up with ice. Add Chambord,  
white wine and soda.**

**And bon, your tonsils purr like  
a koala.**

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# Wedding Makeup Inspo!

by Carla Balzano of Creative Contour by Carla

**Hey beautiful brides-to-be! Carla here. I am the Owner and Founder of Creative Contour By Carla. I am a makeup artist based in Boston who works in the wedding industry! There are so many tasks to plan on your wedding day, and it's so intimidating! Your wedding makeup should not be! No worries, because I am here to show you three popular wedding makeup styles that will give you all of the inspo! These styles are so pretty that you'll be dreaming of them until your wedding day! In this article I am going to discuss my most-requested makeup styles from brides! So, let's jump right in!**

## **Polished Beauty**

First, let's start with the most my most requested makeup style: Polished Beauty. This style of makeup lives right up to its namesake. Polished Beauty is a style of makeup that enhances your natural beauty! You want to look your best on your wedding day, but you still want to see yourself when you look in the mirror and at your wedding photos. Little touches in the makeup will result in a polished, natural makeup look. This style is perfect for the brides who wear a little bit of makeup daily, or none at all!



## **Neutral Glamour**

This makeup style is perfect for those of you who love glamorous makeup looks! Combine neutral makeup tones with big, fluffy eyelashes and you have the Neutral Glamour makeup style! Neutral tones are colors that look the most natural against your skin tone. I know that this can get a little confusing compared to a natural makeup style. However, this style of makeup is nowhere near natural. Neutral refers to the colors used in the makeup look, not the makeup style. Neutral Glamour is the perfect makeup style for brides who want a glamorous makeup look on their wedding day, regardless of their daily makeup routine.



## **Seasonal, Bold Makeup**

Beauties, this is a style of makeup for those of you who want your makeup to be the star of the show on your wedding day! This makeup style consists of bright eye makeup with flirty, long eyelashes, and a bold lip color. This style of makeup is bold and wears colors that are appropriate for the season your wedding takes place. I recommend this style of makeup for the brides who are bold at heart and love to wear bold lip colors.



*Beauties, these are the most popular wedding makeup styles requested by CCBC brides! I hope this article was helpful in helping you find your ideal makeup style! And of course, I am always here for you! If you have any questions or need help deciding, please feel free to contact me directly through my website: [www.creativecontourbycarla.com](http://www.creativecontourbycarla.com)! I can't wait to help you choose your perfect wedding day makeup style! And don't forget to follow me on social media: FB, IG, Pinterest: @creativecontourbycarla!*

*Lots of love and lipstick,  
Carla*

Photo Credits: Image 1: Danyel Stapleton Photography; Image 2: Kayla Lynne Photo; Image 3: Erin of Boston.

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# Interview with Cover Photo Contest Winner: Lexi Foster Photography!

Lexi Foster won our Cover Photo Contest!  
Read on to learn more about her & don't  
forget to admire her front cover photo!



## What is unique about your business?

Every business is able to differ themselves based on the client experience they give when running their business. I tend to return to businesses that I have an emotional connection to, or because they make me feel good. In my business, I try to bring this concept of comfort into my own client experience. From the initial point of contact my clients have with me, to gallery delivery + beyond, every aspect of communication they have with me is an integral part of their overall experience. I do my best to approach each wedding and elopement from a place of empathy + dive deeper into what each client wants + needs.

I don't run my business the way many would picture a photography business to be run. Of course, a huge aspect of my business is photography, but that's not all it is. I've created my brand around empathy, vulnerability and letting your walls down. I find that the images that most people connect with are those images that are honest, raw and authentic. But what does this actually mean? To me, it means when people are vulnerable with one another. When you're able to dive deep into the roots of where their love came from. Asking the hard questions. It's when my client's share their failure, their success, their pet peeves and things they're uncomfortable with. It allows me to step into their storybook for that day and be able to document their love in an honest way. I do my best not to pre-write the stories I'm reading, if you will. It's not just a session where I show up, shoot and leave. Instead, I've tried to break this tradition + enter each session with an open heart and observant eyes as to what storybook I'm in.

Every photo that makes it into a wedding or elopement album is very intentional + has reason for being there. Usually, it's an emotion that was felt during the day, sentiment behind details or important people that aren't in the spotlight but deserve to be.

**What is something you are most proud of in your business?** I think the thing I'm most proud of over anything else is the response I get from

my clients after gallery delivery + how I make them feel with my photographs. It's when I hit the nail on the head with capturing their story and getting responses like "you just made our entire family cry because of how honest and beautiful these are." Sometimes it is tough to know how important certain photographs will be until you hear the client's response or the reason behind why they're so meaningful to them. Just recently, I had a client tell me a story about how her father and her used to go rainbow hunting. Every time there was a storm, they'd go out and hunt for the rainbows. Later in life, he fell ill, went into hospice and passed away. When she left saying goodbye to him that day, there was a rainbow over her car + later rainbows have become her meaningful reminder that he is watching over her. As we approach her wedding day, we just recently did an engagement session at sunrise when this massive rainbow came out over the waterfall + she explained to me how meaningful that was to her to have that photograph with her new husband. At the time, it was just a beautiful detail for me to capture, but later became her version of her father and daughter picture at her wedding + that meant the world to me to know I documented

that. The short answer to the question is- I'm most proud of the feelings I give my clients.

When I first made the choice to quit my full-time job + pursue photography full time, it was not the safe option. I barely had any education in photography, and definitely didn't know how to run a business. Photography for me has never been the safe option. It's always been a risk to go after this dream. At first, I didn't know how I would pay my bills. Though, my mom always told me to follow my passion and the money will follow. The moment when my fiancé + I bought our house, I had this realization that anything is possible. Even more recently, I was just featured in the New York Times, with my photos being seen in newspapers nationwide.

With now having had some success with the business, I have started to take on the role as an educator for other wedding and elopement photographers. This is something else I take pride in. My goal is to be a resource for aspiring photographers to help streamline their path to success and be the person I wish I had when I was first starting out.

**How have you pivoted given the current circumstances?** This last year has been a year of learning, networking and building my brand to the adventurous, intentional and authentic brand I know it could be. Last year, when COVID-19 caused shutdowns, I made it my goal to get to know as many wedding professionals as possible. I set up zoom calls daily with wedding vendors all across New England, attempting to learn as much as I could about each of their businesses before the economy opened back up + how we could help one another. We chatted each day about how we could be there



**Photo:** Hanna Caroline Photography, **Edits:** Lexi Foster Photography

for our clients and still give them the weddings or elopements of their dreams. Networking became so important to me, because there were days that I needed inspiration or even just someone to relate to.

About 11 months into the pandemic when businesses began opening back up, I opened a collaborative rental photography studio for other photographers to rent as a space to continue their creativity. After spending so much time on networking during the pandemic, I felt it would only make sense to provide a creative outlet for others to continue their work during a hard time.

Further into the year, my father passed away from COVID-19 + I began to see photography in a new light and pivot my business in the way that I document + story tell. I remember thinking right before he passed away that all I wanted was one last family picture of the 5 of us and how much that would mean to me. I even wanted to get married in his hospital room, so he could see my fiancé and I get married. I always had a connection to photographs, but never like this. Not until these moments. Now I approach each and every elopement, couples shoot or wedding like it's the last photographs they'll ever have.

**If you had to give just one piece of advice to couples planning their wedding, what would it be?** Sometimes it's tough to get lost in the planning process and feel so utterly overwhelmed. Though, my one piece of advice is to make it about the two of you and no one else. I would recommend starting the planning process by asking yourself what you want to remember once the day is all said and done? What emotions do you want to feel? What details do you want to remember? What do you envision your vendors being like? Who do you picture by your side? Then plan from there. It's easy to get lost in all the things you have to have + the pressures of meeting society's traditions that





really don't matter. Just keep reminding yourself, this day is about you and your love + it can be anything you want it to be.

**What is something you would like our readers to know?** My fiancé Arthur usually shoots every wedding or elopement with me + we both come from a place of empathy trying to understand you and your love story and shoot each photo with intention. That's super important to us. With us, you'll always have a cohesive carefree, all-inclusive team who puts you first. Lastly, we are ALWAYS down to adventure with you. No adventure is too big or small for us + we're always willing to take on the weirdest of ideas. We want it to be about you and what the two of you want + have every intention of making your ideal day a reality.

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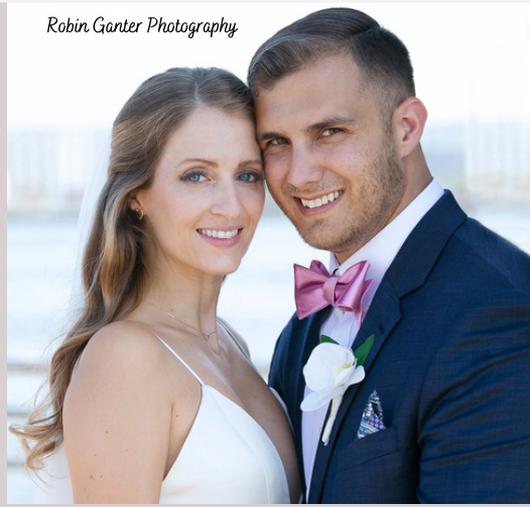
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# Cover Photo Contest Honorable Mentions



*Charity Hope Photography*



*Robin Garter Photography*



*Allie.Photo*



*Amanda Luisa Photography*



*Stephanie Berenson Photography*



*Marcela Diaz Photography*



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# Biggest Regrets Brides Have Post-Wedding

by Carissa Corsi of Carissa Corsi Events, Visit [Carissacorsievents.com](http://Carissacorsievents.com)

Every bride worries about whether or not her wedding day will be a success. And while not every decision is the right one for every bride, there are a few that almost all come to regret.

## not hiring a wedding planner

While brides may be familiar with the wedding day ins and outs from being in a bridesmaid, attending and/or doing extensive research, it doesn't mean they have to handle it all on their own. A wedding planner can provide the industry knowledge they need, take the weight off their shoulders to allow for a more relaxed experience leading up to their wedding / day itself, manage their budget + save them money in the long run, keep them organized, help them align on their MUSTs and help them focus more on enjoying the NOW. With the month before being the most stressful, it's important every bride has a planner to handle any unforeseen details that arise, attend last minute vendor meetings and put out any fires! Lastly, should things get messy on the big day, the responsibility will fall on a planner such as myself instead of their mom, friends, or another vendor not equipped to do the job.



## not having clear priorities

A lot of brides regret not having their priorities in order before diving into planning. When planning a wedding, it's crucial to highlight the elements they just cannot live without. To figure out priorities, the most helpful thing to do is to sit down as a couple and create a list of all the possible wedding expenses (start with the non-negotiable items and work in the secondary items once budget is assigned). After crossing off anything that isn't applicable to their unique situation, they can take turns circling the THREE things that matter most to them individually about their wedding. And then, come to a decision together.

## not taking stress into consideration from day one

It's not easy planning a wedding (especially planning your own). It can be high-stress and an energy/time sucker. But, every bride has to keep one thing in mind, this is one of the most epic days of their life. It's all about working through the stress in the appropriate way and tackling it before it spirals. So many brides today allow stress to ruin the joy of planning their wedding.





This is why it's important to have stress reducing practices in place before diving into planning.

Here are a few practices to reduce stress that can be implemented at any stage of the wedding planning process.

- **Delegate Tasks:** Whenever possible, delegate tasks. The best way to do this is to seek out a wedding planner or it could be as simple as having someone run an errand while conquering other items on their to-do list. Just ask.
- **Exercise:** It's important to keep those positive juices flowing and exercise is a great way to do so as it acts as a stress-reliever and energy booster.
- **Nutrition:** Eating well balanced meals is another way to eliminate stress. Food and drink are the ultimate fuel to keep those wheels turning!
- **Beauty Sleep:** Beauty sleep is important! Set an alarm in which an hour before bed it rings and signifies to stop doing all things wedding OR try meditating!
- **YOU Time:** Go on and book a spa day, dive into a favorite book, spend QT time with friends and family, etc. It's impossible to stay sane throughout the process without time alone.

## allowing too many people to have an opinion

Dealing with the overbearing opinions of others makes wedding planning more stressful than it already is. The opinions given are most likely coming from a place of love and excitement, but it still doesn't make it ideal. People truthfully may not even realize that their opinions are causing stress! This is a big day for every bride and THEY should decide what THEY want (alongside their significant other).

## not having a budget

Budget is overlooked by a lot of couples these days. However, setting a realistic wedding budget should be the very first step taken when it comes to the wedding planning process. The budget is essentially the driving force behind bringing the day together. A realization that comes to the surface fairly quickly when it comes to planning their wedding is that everything adds up, FAST. This is why it's supercritical that a budget is set from the start. From choosing a wedding planner to purchasing wedding accessories, it's important to always refer back to that budget!





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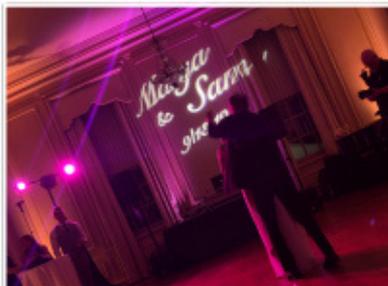
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# mar·riage

['merij] *noun*

---

1. the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship
2. the endless cycle of two individuals asking each other what they want to have for dinner

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# Top Honeymoon Destinations for Newlyweds

by Alicia McCarthy of Aqualuxe Travel | [www.aqualuxetravel.com](http://www.aqualuxetravel.com)

Your honeymoon is one of the most exciting vacations you will ever take – the first travel experience in your new life as a couple – and certain destinations are just made for this kind of journey. Whether you are looking for time to relax post-wedding on a sandy beach with beautiful waters, wanting to explore a bustling city and all it has to offer, or seeking an adventurous time with your new life partner, there is a destination perfect for you. Here are the top honeymoon destinations for newlyweds.

**HAWAII** Always at the top of the list for honeymooners, the Islands of Hawaii are perfect for a romantic getaway. With beautiful beaches and plenty of activities - snorkeling, waterfall hiking, soaring in a helicopter over a volcano – there is something for everyone. Add to that the warm welcome of “aloha” you’ll be greeted with everywhere you turn and this domestic destination (no need for passports!) is ideal. Most honeymooners will take enough time to explore at least two of the islands giving you very distinct experiences on each island.



**TAHITI** Still looking for a beautiful beach getaway but wanting a little more seclusion? Look no further than Tahiti or the Maldives. Only 2 hours longer to travel to than Hawaii, Tahiti is the birthplace of the iconic overwater bungalow. Watch the marine life swim underneath your bungalow or jump in and snorkel with sharks and rays, jet ski in the shockingly turquoise blue lagoons, and feast on delicious local seafood while staying in one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. In the Indian Ocean, the Maldives also offer stunning overwater bungalows on their 26 coral atolls – most of the hotels are on their own private atoll! – for complete seclusion to enjoy private time with your new spouse. Unlimited beaches and extensive reefs for snorkeling and diving make your experience here absolutely heavenly.

**ITALY** Think romance and Italy instantly pops in your head. An iconic destination for couples looking for “la dolce vita”, honeymooners can stroll the bustling streets of Rome and visit awe-inspiring landmarks, sip wine at one of the numerous vineyards in Tuscany, or marvel at the majestic views along the Amalfi Coast including a quick trip to the beautiful island of Capri. And who can forget about the food? Besides the amazing restaurants, a cooking class in Italy is a perfect addition to your honeymoon itinerary.



**GREECE** The beautiful country of Greece offers so much to honeymooners. Spend a couple of nights in Athens to see the historic sites and then hop on a plane or ferry to discover what Greece is best known for – its stunning islands. Spend time on Santorini gazing out over the caldera, tour the famous Santorini vineyards, and enjoy a sunset sail with the warm wind blowing through your hair. Then island hop to some of the lesser known but equally beautiful islands – Crete, Paros, Naxos – for a truly unique experience.



**ST. LUCIA** Undoubtedly the most romantic island in the Caribbean, St. Lucia beckons honeymooners to its shores. Gorgeous beaches, crystal clear turquoise water, hiking the Pitons, outstanding cuisine, relaxing spa treatments – St. Lucia has it all. This is the island where couples come to enjoy time together in a quiet relaxing setting.

**SOUTH AFRICA** A honeymoon destination of a lifetime, South Africa is perfect for adventurous couples to explore together. Enjoy time in Cape Town with their gorgeous mountains and coastline (offering everything from penguin viewing to cage diving with sharks!) and an amazing food scene, then spend a few days in the nearby winelands sipping the country's fantastic wines. Of course, you must finish your South African honeymoon with a safari to spot the Big 5 animals in their natural habitat, an experience you will never forget.



*No matter what you are looking for in a honeymoon, there is a destination that is perfect for you and one that will give you lasting memories as you begin your new life together.*





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# HAPPILY EVER EXPO HOSTS OUTDOORS!

Connemara House | Oct. 2020 | Photos Courtesy of Marcela Diaz Photography



**Happily Ever Expo** pivoted this fall and held their first ever outdoor wedding expo! It was held under the tent at **Connemara House** in Topsfield, MA. The day provided the perfect opportunity for newly engaged couples to meet wedding professionals in person even given the circumstances. Engaged couples were able to take a photo together upon stepping under the tent at **Booth Shopp's** set up. Music played by **ECF Entertainment** to create the perfect setting for a fun and lively experience. Four foot tall light up letters were provided by **Your Love in Lights** to set the scene. Guests were able to meet a variety of wedding professionals and vendors while they walked through the tent and there were endless door prizes given away, including mini-moons and photography packages! If you didn't make it, don't worry, there will be more just like this throughout 2021!

**May 16th - Wrentham, MA - Lake Pearl**

**June 27th - Topsfield, MA - Connemara House**

**October 24th - Beverly, MA - Misselwood Events at Endicott College**

**More TBA!**

Visit [happilyeverexpo.com](http://happilyeverexpo.com) for info  
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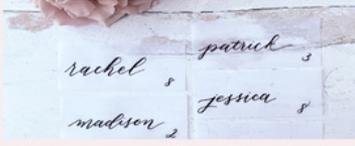
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Taja Ricketts, Owner

# Q&A with Taja from

## Satin Kiss



## Satin Kiss

Adult Novelty | Wellness

**Satin Kiss has been a featured vendor at one of our Happily Ever Expo events.**

**What was the experience like for you, and what do you think couples can gain from attending?**

Attending Happily Ever Expo was so much fun!

It was a great opportunity to interact with couples, getting to know them, and teaching them about our product and service offerings.

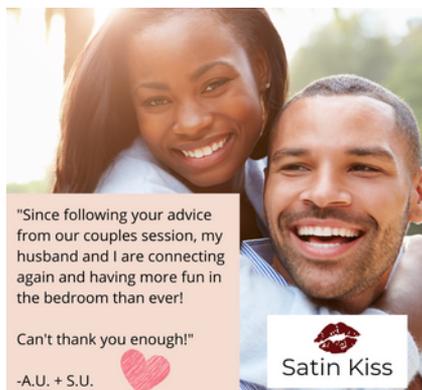
We also had the opportunity to present one happy couple with a free raffle prize from our curated collection of products, worth \$250! If people are curious about why they should attend the Expo, that's just one!



### What exactly is Satin Kiss?

Satin Kiss is an elevated shopping and education experience, where we help people lead healthy, happy sex lives! We provide body-safe/non-toxic adult products to compliment any lifestyle. We take things a step further and offer empowerment through guided shopping assistance, coaching for individuals and couples, as well as fun, educational toy parties that we call the Satin Kiss Experience.

We also specialize in helping people who are often underserved: particularly women, BIPOC, members of the LGBTQ+



community, and the differently-abled. At Satin Kiss all are welcome! Satin Kiss is certified as a Sexual Health Resource by the Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health. This ensures our clients and customers that they are receiving modern, scientific and culturally informed guidance from an empathetic, non-judgmental source.

### What advice do you have for engaged couples to keep things fun and exciting in their relationships & in the bedroom?

**1) Keep it playful!** Remember that fun, carefree feeling that you first had when you started dating? Add things to your life in and out of the bedroom throughout the day to give you both that same feeling. It could be the way that you flirt, passing touches, eye contact.

**2) Learn what you like!** It's important, for each person to know what they like as individuals. Everyone, in a relationship or not, should take time to reflect on their sexual and romantic preferences. Everyone should be comfortable with communicating these interests in a way that is open, honest and non-judgmental.

This conversation should also include discussion of boundaries, as well as excitement about the potential to try something new with the person that you love.

**3) Keep an open mind!** There are endless ways to enjoy sex, and what one person likes, another may not like or may be new to. That's okay! The important thing is to be open to listening, not judging, and seeing if it might be something that you might enjoy trying. You never know, it could be the very thing that could add a spark to your relationship.

### **What products would you recommend for couples who are new to sex toys?**

I'll preface this by saying that there is no one perfect product that fits every single couple. Each relationship has its own unique dynamic. Satin Kiss offers guided shopping assistance and consulting to help couples find the perfect products for them. In the meantime, here are just a few great products for Couples available at Satin Kiss:

If these products don't suit you, Satin Kiss offers guided shopping assistance and consulting to help couples find the perfect products for them.

### **How is Satin Kiss serving couples during COVID?**

Satin Kiss debuted a Sex Assessment for individuals and couples to take a snapshot of their ideals and preferences around sex. This allows people to be vulnerable and honest with themselves, then share with each other as couples. When they get stuck or need additional advice, Satin Kiss is here to help couples navigate these new revelations and make sure that their love and sex life is stronger and better than ever!

### **What advice would you give to couples during COVID?**

Take this time to let yourself and your relationship grow. Be candid about what it is that you want for yourself and your relationship. Try not to judge yourself or your partner. Allow some grace and room for adjustments, while also clearly setting and respecting each other's boundaries.

Finally, don't forget to actually enjoy the time that you have together, no matter what that looks like. Find things that you can enjoy individually and separately and take breaks from each other when you need to.

If new issues come up in the process, seek counseling, which can be done virtually as individuals and as a couple. There's no shame in that.



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[www.satinkiss.me](http://www.satinkiss.me)

# LoveJourney Bahamas

*Love Journey Bahamas is an all-inclusive concierge experience for weddings, renewals, and curated romantic getaways. Love Journey offers the best of both worlds – a Boston-based event design team, and a Bahamas-based event planning and management team with more than ten years of experience with local Bahamian venues, artisans, and vendors.*

## **How did you get your idea or concept for your business?**

LoveJourney Bahamas was born of this time when we still choose to celebrate life, with those most closest to us. We're so inspired and in love with love. It is an honor to share the joy of couples that want to celebrate and affirm their love - especially during these times. They have chosen each other, they have chosen this time. Everything may change, but love remains. We also know that destination weddings have always been special but not always accessible. Our concierge service gives the best of both worlds - a US-based design service, and a Bahamas-based event service. We look at LoveJourney as an extended family and we can't wait to welcome our journeyers to The Bahamas.

## **What is unique about LoveJourney Bahamas?**

Our business is built for smaller, intimate, custom celebrations that infuse the authentic culture of The Bahamas. You're not one of many. The guest list is also smaller - there are no observers on your LoveJourney, everyone is there to support you and be with you. That means our guest lists are 2 to 20 people, and we love it. We can give each couple the attention and thoughtfulness to detail, with the convenience of a concierge.

## **How did you pick the name of your business?**

Your wedding is a great milestone in your relationship - but it's the beginning! The best is yet to come. Oftentimes the wedding becomes a finite event and we want to acknowledge it's a part of your beautiful journey and help you make it your own. That's how we decided on the name LoveJourney.





**Tell us a little bit about your background in your career prior to starting LoveJourney Bahamas.** We're so excited to be doing this together. We come from a strong line of female entrepreneurs and this business is part of the LoveJourney of our family as well. As cousins we grew up together in The Bahamas, and now we get to share the best of The Bahamas with our journeyers.

**If you had to give just one piece of advice to couples planning their wedding, what would it be?** Your wedding is a reflection of your relationship together. We often say your spouse is the only person in your family you get to choose, so choose wisely! The same is for the details of your LoveJourney, it is your chosen beginning, and an opportunity to reflect on what you want to build together. It should also be fun!

**What do you want people to remember about working with LoveJourney?** Let us handle the details so you can be present in the moment. Wedding planning can be fun, but overwhelming. Destination weddings are a wonderful opportunity to create the experience you want. You can be involved as little or as much as you need to, and focus your passion on the touches you want. Your wedding will be an experience, not one day – take it all in!

If you have any questions at all, we offer a free consultation and can't wait to meet you. Follow along our journey @lovejourneybahamas or on Facebook at LoveJourney Bahamas. See you soon!





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# 5 Reasons you *NEED* to do a Boudoir Shoot as a Bride-to-be!

by *Shelby Medlin of Mon Chari Boudoir*

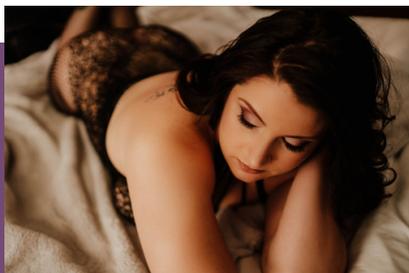
## 1. Because Self-Love is Important

When was the last time you did something truly just for yourself? I'm not talking about picking up that shirt you need for work from Target.. or when you grabbed that Starbucks iced coffee because YOLO.

I mean truly took the time to love yourself and reward yourself. Being a bride-to-be is HARD. You spend all your free time planning the wedding and trying to keep everyone happy and on the same page, you deserve to give ourselves that same time and attention. A boudoir session is the perfect opportunity to practice Self-Love and celebrate your time as a bride.

## 2. Being pampered is not only okay, it's encouraged!

You know that amazing feeling you get after you get your hair done or right after you got your nails all fresh and you've got that extra pep in your step? Okay, now multiply that by 1000. ...That's a boudoir session.



When you book a session with Mon Chari Boudoir we take care of all the work so you just get to sit back and relax. From providing Hair & Makeup styling by our talented team, to posing you from your head to your toes, and finally to providing you with the perfect high quality products to display your images so you and your fiancé can oogle at yourself for years and years to come. All you have to do is show up and revel in the experience. You are going to feel amazing.

## 3. Confidence BOOST

Remember that pep in your step we talked about in #2? Yeah it's real- and you'll be riding that high for awhile. Seeing yourself through someone else's eyes is important. Often times we are our own worst critics and being able to view yourself in a different light can be exactly what you need to switch that perspective.

Think about those closest to you; Your kiddos, your partner, or your friends & family? They deserve the best version of you and that YOU knows how to love and be loved. It may not happen overnight, but it WILL happen. And when it does, it will be SO worth it. Taking this opportunity before your big day will give you that extra confidence to strut down the aisle like the QUEEN that you are.



#### 4. There's no time like the present!

If I had a dollar for every time I've heard "Maybe when I lose 10 lbs" or "I just need to tone up a bit first" ... Well, I would probably be living in Fiji sipping Mojitos and reading trashy romance novels on the beach.

The first and most important thing you'll learn from a boudoir session is you are perfect exactly how you are in this moment. I have literally never had a client in my studio who had perfect skin, perfect hair, or a perfect body. Perfect does not exist. But the imperfections...Those are what make you beautiful and unique.

#### 5. Laughter is the best medicine!

Worried about what to do with your hands or feeling awkward? What about being naked or nearly naked in front of a stranger? Welcome to my life.

First things first, we aren't going to just JUMP RIGHT IN to stripping down to your skivvies. You'll start with hair and makeup styling and we will chat and get to know each other.

Once your shoot starts I play some #bootyjams and I will tell you just like I tell all of my clients the first 5 minutes of your shoot are the most awkward part. But don't worry, I'll be your hype girl. I will cheer you on in your sexy lingerie and you'll feel right at home doing the no pants dance. Then once we are settling into your first couple poses and you're adjusting to this new stretch or shape your body is making it might feel a bit strange if you've never done this before.



You might find yourself thinking "Am I making that face? I feel like I'm making that face" (FYI I will totally tell you if you are making that face).

After that? Smooth sailing. You'll probably be laughing at me tripping over my own feet, sweating profusely and telling you a corny joke and honestly, you will probably forget you're even naked in front of a "stranger". Because by then, we will be old friends.

So amidst all the chaos of wedding planning, be sure to take time for yourself. The fact that your fiancé gets this wicked awesome wedding day present is just a bonus.

See you SOON.

XOXO

Shelby

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## WHO WE ARE

LUX BOX is a mother-daughter trio with backgrounds in interior design, fashion and graphic design who love beautiful things. Our love for events brought us to start LUX BOX where we could play a small part in this amazing fun world!

## WHAT WE DO

We are a full-service gifting company. We work closely with our clients to design the perfect gifts for their events. We take care of the curation of items, graphic design needs, printing of materials, writing note cards, hand assembling all gifts, handling all the deliveries and shipping with attention to detail throughout. We make giving easy and beautiful!

## WEDDING GIFT BOXES

Whether we do Wedding Welcome Boxes or Wedding Party Gifts, the options are limitless. We will work with your vision and theme. Every project is different and that is what we love about our work. It's all about you! Guests LOVE to receive goodies at their arrival and it instantly sets a warm welcoming tone.

## GET STARTED

Reach out to us to get started on your gifts. We would love to connect. We are here to help and take some stress away during this busy planning time.

xoxo,  
Anne-Marie, Olivia, Chloé  
and the LUX BOX team

HAPPILY EVER  
EXPO

